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Met. Police Receive Army Training
In Anti-Riot Combat Operations

CIVIL DISORDER HOLDING CENTRES EXPOSED

Inside-details of the main Met. Police riot-training and holding centre in south-east London have been lodged with Black Flag. Full London-Wide Riot Force is now operational!

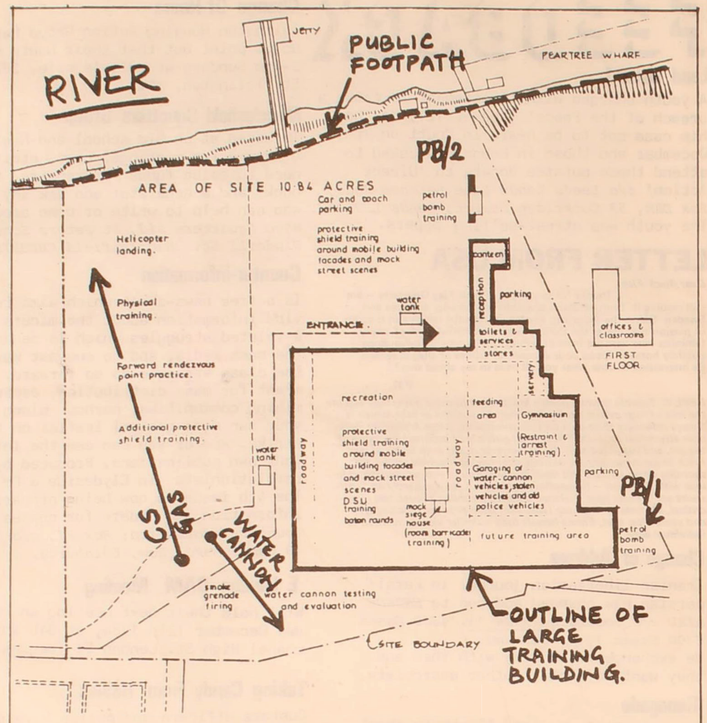
The secret River Way Metropolitan Police Training Centre, specialising in civil disorder operations and counter-insurgency training has been the subject of a recent 120 page internal report by the Greenwich Police Sub-Committee. A copy of this restricted report is now with Black Flag and we reproduce a map of the controversial centre, showing the layout of the centre and details of some of its functions.

The 11 acre site, bordering on the River Thames, is virtually hidden from view and is protected night and day by a special civilian security force. The centre has been used as a riot-training establishment now for the past two and a half years. It is only now that details of what goes on behind the well-guarded perimeter have been revealed, albeit via a restricted document.

The centre includes a mock urban environment for police to practise counter-insurgency combat operations. Significantly these operations are led by a Brigadier seconded from the Army. The Sub-Committee document, entitled 'Riot Training In Greenwich' goes on to describe the training programme, which includes training in the use of water-cannon, dealing with petrol-bombs, handling baton-rounds (plastic bullets) and deployment of specialist riot-control vehicles, etc.

The Sub-Committee estimated that over 20,000 rounds of plastic bullets are held by the Met alone for use by the London-wide District Support Units. Strategically located between the Inner City areas and the Kent Coal Fields, the River Way site is now recognised to be only one of many around the country designated as Holding/Training Centres in case of widespread or even localised civil disorder.

Altogether there are two other such centres within the Capital. Namely, Hounslow and Buckingham Gate (Central).



ANNOTATED POLICE SITE PLAN.

In addition a further Holding Centre is based in south London at Camberwell. The Hounslow centre was in fact set up before the Brixton '81 riots, while the Camberwell centre (a warehouse owned by the Met) was used to intern several hundred demonstrators arrested (but not charged) during the mainly CND organised anti-Reagan demonstrations last Summer.

Since then temporary internment as a way of defusing mass demonstrations has been used on at least two occasions by the Met - namely the last Stop the City protest, when over 400 were arrested and held for several hours, and the recent student protest outside Parliament, when around 200 were held and later released without being charged.

Mass detention is a trend which is growing. We have seen it with anti-militarist demonstrations. We have seen it being applied with the mass pickets. And it is a trend that is likely to continue. The Greenwich report bears this out in that the document also reveals that the River Way centre, as do the other Holding/Training centres, also doubles as an emergency internment site for occasions when normal prison facilities for mass arrests are overused.

The Holding Centres (as they are euphemistically called) also have the facilities for the billeting of large numbers of police, drafted in from other areas, as well as accommodating specially trained support units on a localised basis.

It is this last point, together with the fact that all London's DSU's have been using the centre on a more-or-less full time basis for the last 30 months, that proves that the Met has now a fully-trained London-wide Riot Force in readiness for any major disturbance. The report goes on to show how this force, as are similar specialist units, is under the direct control of the National Reporting Centre, which is running police operations throughout the Miners Strike.

As we have pointed out in previous issues, the work of the NRC is closely linked to internal civil defence plans as coordinated through UK Land Forces HQ. Back in October we referred to four new Counter-Insurgency centres, under UKLF control, one of which is to based in Norfolk, at Stanford. Other such centres are in the pipeline.

The Civil War scenario is no myth.

MASS APPEAL

Richard Ingrams, the upper-class satirist editor of *Private Eye*, darling of the public schools, has said he's a 'self-confessed Christian Anarchist'; Ken Livingstone, the package-deal leftie of County Hall who's the bogeyman and darling of the Tories with a shrewd eye on the Labour leadership post-Kinnock, says he's really an 'anarcho-syndicalist'. But don't be fooled: it is no longer fashionable to describe oneself as a 'Marxist' and we're getting the flack now...when one looks at their aims, never mind their actions, how the anarchist gloss vanishes and the Statist beast appears! Charlie Chaplin too, accused of being a Marxist, said he was 'more of an anarchist', but he kept his millions in the family... which leads up to a piece of graffiti seen in Lewisham - 'Anarchism equals Legalised Pot' - while in Ipswich - 'Liberalism means Legalised Anarchism'. Whoever invented spray point has a lot to answer for.

Frustrated by the Luxembourg Court's decision to unfreeze all NUM assets (totally around £4m) lodged in a Luxembourg bank, the High Court in London has now handed all NUM monies (to include money held in accounts in Zurich and Dublin, etc) into the hands of an official receiver - a Derbyshire solicitor - to administrate it on behalf of the NUM. This now leaves the NUM with no assets at all as the receiver will no doubt decide that as the strike has been declared unofficial the money he holds can no longer be used to help strikers, but only scabs.

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Coal Convoys Preparing to Outflank Pickets
Government Intends to Bankrupt NUM

CIVIL WAR IN THE COALFIELDS

In preperation for the early movement of strike-bound coal, police in the mining communities are stepping up the siege conditions in a desperate attempt to divert attention from the NCB/Government contingency plans. Government intransigience has provoked another death and all the signs are that nothing short of complete bankruptcy of the NUM and total destruction of union militancy will be settled for.

The NCB/Government/Police strategy is to push through a pincer attack: keep the pressure up at the pits where resistance is continuing, while at the same time getting ready for the massive convoys that will soon be sent to the strike-bound pits to move supplies to the power stations.

Their aim is to outflank the pickets. Already some parts of the country are under a state of virtual seige. South Wales and South Yorkshire especially.

With encouragement from the media a few decided to scab. But the response of the police was to treble their forces and to intensify their intimidation.

The result is near Civil War in many mining areas. It is little wonder with the sheer level of police intimidation that many communities have responded by organising for their defence. The media have portrayed the violence as madness; the reality is there is a war going on - a war against imposed poverty and forced resettlement. What we are all witnessing is the actions of a blood thirsty government out of control seeking total retribution.

Thatcher, Kinnock and TUC chief Willis are all anxiously trying to cool things down. A victorious NUM, using direct action, and with the direct support of the labour movement and rank and file trade unionists above the heads of the sell-out leadership: that is what unites this 'triple alliance' against those miners who refuse to give in.

If the other unions can show physical support, fair enough. But in the absence of such support, the NUM will inevitably turn to the Support Network, whose roots are as much in the communities as they are in the workplaces, to act as a reserve.

But why now have the state forces gone on to the offensive? - because the government has sensed that the time is approaching when the striking miners will need to call upon all their support for the final battle against Scab Coal.

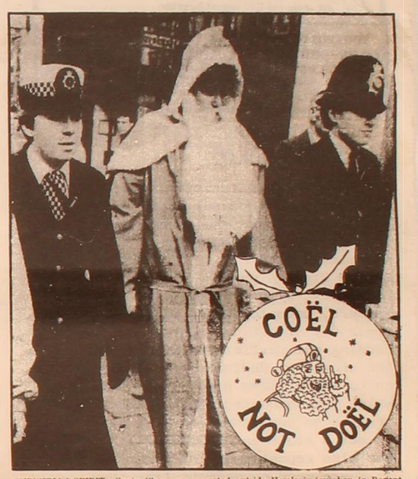
The government is deeply afraid. Afraid that mass picketing will rise on a scale never before seen. Already the bourgeois press are talking about the threat of mass action that might pale Orgreave into insignificance.

Many of the Support Groups are self-organised; others are directly linked to the NUM. However they are organised, they can and should prepare for the massive physical support the miners will need in the days to come.

If, and when, the word goes out the Support Groups will need to be ready for what ever is necessary: whether this means trebling the mass pickets or providing rearguard support in terms of creating diversions, sabotaging state reinforcements, etc.

The government has proven its resolve and determination not to give in and its foresight in preparing well in advance of the provoked strike. After nine months we have to prove that our resolve and our preparations are greater. This will undoubtedly mean arming ourselves with the expertise to deal effectively with riot-trained, truncheon-wielding cops, with massive numbers of amoral scab truckers, and with a professional army that would relish the idea of taking on an anti-state resistance.

We have already reported on the NUM's appeal for further massive support on picket lines. Many have already responded. But in the days to come the coal convoys will be mobilised, backed up by the nationwide mobile riot cops. How these coming battles will be concluded will depend very much so on the wider support the Miners have been given from day one. Be prepared.



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT: Santa Claus was arrested outside Hamley's toy shop in Regent Street, London, yesterday, while he was launching a Christmas toy appeal for miners' children. Santa, alias Derek Freeman, of the Miners' Support Group of Westminster and the City, was later released with a caution.
Picture by Philip Wolmuth

MINERS UPDATE

A Notts Probation Officer reports receiving cases of miners whose charge sheets read or include "possession of subversive material in the back of car". This is not a 'crime'...Lord Hailsham's ideal of Law made by Judges is bad enough now it's 'make it up as you go along' community policing?

All in all it is reported that a total of 41 police stations in South Yorkshire alone have been damaged since the commencement of the Miners Strike. Over 7,000 miners have been arrested and 4,000 subjected to restrictive bail conditions.

A striking miner from Fryston pit near Castleford, phoned up the so-called Silver Birch (a scab leader) to find out information on him. The Fryston miner asked him if any other miners from the Castleford area had phoned him; he said not. Silver Birch then invited the Fryston miner to a secret meeting of scabs in Notts. When the miner from Fryston asked Silver Birch how he could get into Notts with all the police road-blocks, he answered 'No problem, just tell me your car registration number and you'll get through'.

(SOURCE: Hull DAM)

INSIDE - More on the Miners Strike, Question and answer on anarchism, International news, Letter from Spain, Students stop city, Murrays & more....

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NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Combined Subscription:
Quarterly Magazine & fortnightly News Bulletin:

12 months: £12 Inland & Surface, £19 Air.
6 months: £6.50 Inland & Surface, £10 Air.

We have had to increase the subs (the first time for 2½ years) because of increase in postage costs and the cover price. Current subscribers whose sub has not yet run out will get their copies of *Black Flag* sent as usual, without having to send on the extra money.

Radio 'Hi-jacked'

A group of anarchists in the Bedford area managed to occupy their local radio station and force the management to broadcast a statement supportive of the miners strike.

The group - part of a newly formed collective with around 20 members of workers, unemployed and students - began their day of action on November 5 by handing out leaflets in a square in the centre of Bedford and then went on to the offices of Chiltern Radio, which they occupied. Before the police arrived to oust them out they managed to get a statement broadcast live, which was also repeated on the 5pm news report.

There were no arrests (the cops arrived too late) and the next day the group sent out press releases to the local papers. A half page story got into one local rag, mentioning that the anarchist group concerned have promised to return 'with more actions'. Watch this space!

The Aims of Industry

The Aims of Industry - the far right employers group whose objectives are to smash militant trade unionism and 'subversion' in industry - has been acting behind the scenes throughout the Miners Strike; their latest venture is to provide legal funding for an National Union of Seamen scab who took the NUS to court because he objected to NUS funds being used to help the miners. The NUS lost the case and as a result can no longer continue with the levy without incurring contempt proceedings. The ruling, however, did not affect one-off payments to the NUM, only payments that are deducted from members at source. The Aims of Industry also specialises in providing 'hit lists' of union militants to employers groups. They work closely with the police, through Special Branch.

Organisation

Organisation? Industry is organised to get the most possible out of every man and woman working in a plant. Organised down to the security guards at the gate who search your lunchbucket for fear you might be taking home something you shouldn't.

What we need is organisation enough to have the company searched to find out if it is carrying home any parts of our wages!

T-Bone Slim/Industrial Worker.

International Solidarity

On 13th October 1984, the following message of solidarity, written by a CNTF militant on a visit to Britain, was read out at a Miner's Rally in Burnley:

"After 8 months of the miners struggle, information in France is poor concerning the evolution of the strike.

On TV the only scenes that are shown are fighting between police, miners and so-called uncontrolled people. Every time the speaker's comments are: "English people really have got violence in their blood, violence on football grounds, and violence at the pits.

The other comment is the absence of a national ballot on the strike.

The CNTF-IWA condemns this attitude, a national ballot is voting for the sacking of comrades.

Like all sections of the IWA, CNTF is giving out news - by the way of a radio in Paris, and by a paper all over the country - about the actual situation of miners, to break the wall of silence.

At the same time as collecting money, we are organising in our factories, offices and shops for industrial action in solidarity with the British miners.

In the whole of Europe today, the Governments are inventing a crisis and restructuring society, giving more places to machines, rejecting workers, giving preference to nuclear power, freezing all other programs (coal, sun wind and geothermal).

In CNTF-IWA we think that there has to be a restructuring of society. But machines, robots, and all technology must be applied in the interest of the working class.

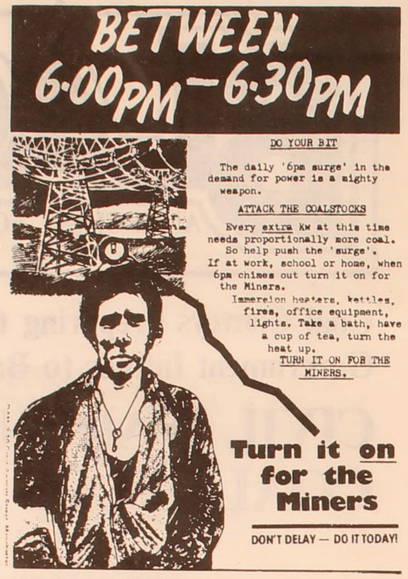
Under those conditions, the British miner's struggle is also the struggle of the international working class - an injury to one is an injury to all!

In solidarity,
Confederation Nationale Du Travail
(France) International Workers Association.
Long live Direct Action
Long live Anarcho-syndicalism!"

Kinnock-Russia & Sabotage

On the day of the funeral of two boys who were killed by a coal avalanche as they tried to expropriate supplies because their famil y was out of domestic fuel and living hand-to-mouth, Neil Kinnock was in Russia trying to prevent further money being sent over (around £1m. has been collected from 'trade unionists' so far) to British miners as part of a relief programme. Kinnock, nervous that the Labour Party might be upstaged, publicly stated at a Moscow press gathering that the Russian media reports that the families of British miners were starving and destitute were untrue and exaggerated. Time will show if Kinnock succeeded in sabotaging this aid - badly needed from whatever quarter.

At Kinsley, near Hemsworth, trenches were dug by pickets across the road leading to the pit entrance, and a barricade was set on fire. Police also alleged that petrol bombs were used by groups wearing balaclavas. On the same night, at Hickleton, a paving slab was dropped from a bridge on to a passing police Land Rover and at Goldthorpe a 20 foot length of railway line was thrown from a parapet on to a stationery police vehicle. Further trouble occurred that evening in Peterlee (Co. Durham) where petrol bombs were thrown; also Hatfield, Rossington and Askern. Barricades were erected and set alight as mass police tried to break up picket lines.



QUALIFICATIONS

In the ballot for SOGAT 82 General President the candidates (six of them) are asked to make a statement of "qualifications in the industries covered by the Society".

One of them, A. Shaw, From Manchester Central Branch, states : "At Manchester University I studied Marxism followed by a course in Philosophy. I attended the TUC Training College and have taken the Harry Hyde Scholarship after attending a course in Industrial Relations at Nuneaton. I have taken a course in Economics through Ruskin College."

Excuse me, but what's Marxism, philosophy, economics and industrial relations got to do with qualifications in printing, which is what the union's all about?

QUESTION & ANSWER ON ANARCHISM

Q. *While I see the danger of a police state, where the police take over and fashion law for themselves, surely Anarchists can't seriously contend that you can do without police altogether? To talk about a 'workers militia' is all very well in terms of defence but if it's going to be a police force, why not have a 'workers police' subject to agreed terms of reference (if you don't like the word Law)?*

A. Anarchists *do* say you can do without police altogether (thereby distinguishing themselves from Statists) and a workers militia is solely for defence and not for police. The normal police role is the defence of the State and without police, a State assembly, (Parliament or whatever) becomes a debating society without any power to enforce its decrees.

The belief that the abolition of police is totally impractical comes about because people appreciate the impossibility of operating a capitalist system that way, which is not what the Anarchists propose. Additionally, Governments have often to pass on emergency or necessary tasks to whatever standing body is available (Armies being used in earthquakes, for instance, doesn't make them useful bodies), and some social duties passed on to the police makes people think that these are natural police duties rather than the anti-social ones. It may be necessary, given heavy road traffic, to have someone sorting it out; it doesn't have to be the arm of the police.

If the police are abolished they don't need to be substituted by another body. 'Crimes against the person' may occasionally now be handled by the police, but the present system is that crime rules, and an entirely different approach must be made.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS INTERNATIONAL

IRELAND
DUNNE IN SOLIDARITY

Since the summer thirteen young workers have been picketing Dunnes Stores in Dublin's Henry Street. They are not looking for more pay or improved conditions even though they could well do with them. They are on strike in solidarity with fellow workers three thousand miles away in South Africa.

It all started when their union, the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union, passed a motion at it's conference calling for a boycott of South African goods to help the struggle against apartheid. Too often such motions are all hot air and no action. Not this time around. The members in Dunnes take their trade unionism seriously and are totally against the racist system in South Africa

SCAB LABOUR

Mary Manning was suspended when she refused to sell South African food. Twelve of her fellow workers walked out with her and the pickets went on. Dunnes responded by putting non-union part timers on the check-outs and arranging deliveries from the scab firm MFM in Tallaght. Strikers have been assaulted by these scabs and by managers. They have had clothes torn and been cut and bruised but their determination remains strong.

The picket is having an effect, custom is way down. On a Saturday the shop is almost empty. Managers have been pretending to be customers to make it seem that someone is shopping there. But you soon twig that one when you see the same guy pushing a half-empty trolly around for four hours!

ESCALATE

If Dunnes had only this one shop they would have had to give in after a week or two. Unfortunately they have shops all over the country. The profits from these will allow Ben Dunne to prolong the strike. The union officials have not brought the strikers to the other shops to explain their case, they certainly have not called for a strike throughout the Dunnes chain.

This would be the way to win. If the strike is spread Ben Dunne will have to settle quickly. It simply proves yet again that union bureaucrats cannot be relied on to escalate action. In every strike the officials should help out and provide resources but the strikers must be in charge. Workers' control is a demand that applies to unions as well as workplaces.

A defeat here will spread demoralisation among shop workers. The union will be seen to be unable to defend it's own members. On the other hand a victory over a boss like Ben Dunne will give workers all over the country the confidence to spread the boycott. It will also give them the confidence needed to push for also give them the confidence needed to push for higher pay and an end to the petty harassment suffered by thousands of shop workers. A victory here is a victory for both black workers in South Africa and for supermarket workers in Ireland.

Help welcomed on the picket line every day. Mass pickets every Saturday 2.30 — 5.30 p.m.

Alan MacSimoin

Source: Workers Solidarity, Dublin

DUNNES ANTI-APARTHEID PICKET: Donations, support messages to IDATU, *9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1.*

LATE NEWS: Other stores in Dublin have been taking S.A. goods off their shelves after workers in other stores began to refuse to handle S.A. goods without bei being suspended. The local fruit & veg market is now discussing a boycott too which could lead to an import ban.

Belgium

Unlikely Alliance

When Jean Le Pen (French NF) came to speak in Brussels last month the only people to demonstrate were the anarchists (" No freedom for the enemies of freedom") and the Christian Movement for Peace. The Labour party put out the following statement: *"We mustn't answer hate by hate, we're fighting for democracy, we MUSTN'T prevent Le Pen from speaking."* The Belgian fascists have been rapidly gaining in strength.

LETTER FROM SPAIN

I haven't yet had time to affiliate myself to the CNT because I've been working too hard (note: everyone here works as if each day was the last — there is no social security worth speaking of and if you don't work eight to ten hours a day you're down in the tube with a piece of cardboard explaining to the bastards still priviliged to fritter away their hours in factories or offices that you are desperate). Because mostly everyone there — in the CNT — has a job, the offices only opens at certain hours, which of course are the hours / work, and so. . . But since the eviction of the CNT from Portaferrissa St. (BF 15.10.84) Barcelona has been quiet; I mean from the point of view of anarchist activity — otherwise there have been the usual shootings in the street, raids on banks, and major road accidents which are all quite frequent here. The CNT supported a joint union strike in the Bingo Halls a month ago (we are strong in bingo for some reason) which was successful. The real action is happening in the north. There the socialist government is starting the first stage of its industrial reconversion' programme. The idea is to update Spain's mostly obsolete industrial installations — but they have decided to do it in the most inhuman way possible, by putting thousands of people out of work for years with a vague promise of more work when the conversions are finished. Galicia, the Asturias and Euskadi have seen major riots, blockades, and mass demonstrations in their three major shipbuilding and industrial centres (Vigo, Gijon and Bilboa respectively). The CNT incidentally, have their strongest influence, (up north), in the shipbuilding industry which is one of the first to come under the curse of this socialist 'brainwave'. I have no eyewitness reports, but reading between the lines and images of the newspapers and television, it is clear that a lot more is happening than we are being told. The violence is unprecedented, and with all due respect (and not wanting in any way to belittle the suffering of England's mining communities) it makes what we call police violence in mainland England look flossy in comparison. As an anarchist friend said to me, what the socialists are doing now not even the most right-wing opposition party would dare to try to get away with, but they're not fooling anyone. And the result must be that the strongest union in the north, the socialist UGT, will lose its influence in large quantities to the CNT and the CC.OO (communists). Here are some of the events: October 25th in Gijon 50,000 people demonstrate in protest at the death of a young student, who was shot by a jeweller when he tried to use his car as a barricade. All workers came out on general strike and the town was completely paralysed. In Euskadi workers blocked railways and a bridge which controls a main road (they blocked it by burning a bus and a truck in the middle). October 31st general strike in Bilbao and Vigo and Gijon — railways paralysed, all shops closed in sympathy, and a TV crew thrown out of the shipbuilding centre in Ferrol (like in England the TV people take photographs of birds whenever the police are doing something nasty and the strikers don't like it). From then on every day more incidents all over the north. The police regularly use rubber bullets. November 16th shipbuilding workers tried to set fire to the town hall in Gijon (throwing cans of gasoline and lighted torches through the front door!). The same workers threatened to burn the whole town down (it's their town remember) if they couldn't keep their jobs.

The same day the main banks in Euskadi were fucked up completely by a steady stream of workers opening 50p bank accounts and then closing them immediately — all economic activity in the area paralysed (HINT HINT). All this as a general protest against the conversions. Just today (November 17th) Bilboa, or at least its shipbuilding sector, broke into open war. The police used armoured cars to smash their way into the occupied yards and (it is as if only now the newspapers have started to tell us just how violent the cops are) a journalist from *El Pais* (something like the Times or the Guardian) got hit by a rubber bullet — he may have brain damage (if he worked for *The Sun*, of course he'd get promoted). I have in front of me a photograph of four workers carrying him off on a stretcher (workers there have organised their own first aid arrangements) surrounded by smoke and rubble. There is one day next week when I'll be able to get to the CNT offices when they're open and I'll get full details of new events.

Worth adding that the protests have mobilised almost the entire working populations of the affected zones, who have to boot a long history of disaffection from the Spanish government in Madrid, and the protests are far larger in number than any of the politicians (whether for or against the conversions) imagined, or wanted. The socialists only answer to all this, no doubt as part of their AES ('Popular Socio-Economic Pact'), has been to send in larger and larger numbers of armed paramilitary police, a technique which is traditional here. . .

* * * * * *

In the papers here there is virtually no coverage at all of the miners' strike. Occasionally a picture of Margaret Thatcher looking like a lonely chicken appears, with a short commentary explaining that she is still head of the English govenment. So recently I bought a couple of English papers to catch up but ended up by giving up: the first story I read was about that police horse which accidentally got a splinter in its eye due to the action of a no doubt deranged psychopathic *subhuman* picket; this same horse, whose name escapes me, received letters from all over the country, letters written in English with full punctuation, from 'well-wishers'. With all respect of those who stick poison in Mars Bars or say they do to stop the institutionalised and daily torture of living creatures (who are not 'well-wishers' for some reason but 'dangerous criminals'), I agree completely with the attitude of friends here, who say that in a situation where the police hospitalise 70 year old men visiting their daughters, or disfigure people delivering supplies of baby food to families who are desperate, 'well-wishers' such as those reported in the press should be put under 24-hour psychiatric surveillance — and note this has nothing to do with political opinions. (After all many of us have already been under 24 hour psychiatric surveillance and it's not as bad as they make out — why not let the *Express* readers give it a try?)

With the troubles in the North, the Spanish media have been at pains to tone down controversial news, but at least they can't distract from it with imbecilic stories about horses. . . More news soon, as soon as it comes through.

M.T.



Canada

ThatcherMurderer !

Colin Thatcher, a millionaire rancher & Energy Minister in the Saskatchewan Govt. until earlier this year was convicted of the first degree murder of his former wife, JoAnn Wilson. His father a former Liberal premier for seven years is helping his son's Appeal (money swears?).

JoAnn Wilson was beaten over the head at least 20 times before being shot dead.

Thatcher politicians like all varieties are the only social group that can be proved to be criminals. Which despot do you choose, why not choose none!

France

Bosses Violence

Kemal Ozgul, a Turkish shop steward was shot dead by a security guard at Epone, near Paris. He was on his way to protest at a building company that has not paid its workers for 5 months with 30 immigrant workers. The employer's violence is matched by the anti-immigrant campaign of the racist National Front which won recent elections and is led by Le Pen.

At Chateaubriand, western France a 22 year old Frenchman shot dead two immigrants and injured five others after he opened fire on a cafe crowd. On arrest he shouted he "didn't like foreigners".

Clearly, in Britain, France wherever immigrant workers are attacked they must reply "Self-defence is no offence" and organise themselves, not wait for the 'socialist' State and notoriously racist French cops to protect them.

INTERNATIONAL

ITALY

Twenty-eight defendants have been sentenced to a total of five hundred years imprisonment - they were found guilty of being the chief organisers of a prison revolt in Trani in December 1980. The protest was against the use of'Special Units'.

One of those sentenced is Giuliano Naria, who has been waiting now for eight years to be tried against the original charge that brought him into Trani in the first place. Giuliano is currently in a very bad state of health: he's lost 50kg in weight as a result.

To support him and the others, please write to: Libreria Calusca, Corso Porta Ticinese 48, Milano 20123, Italy.

CHILE

Things are worsening since the State of Siege was declared. Internment is now a daily affair and police raids on the barrios have been stepped up.

The latest protests brought out troops in full battle gear in the centre of Santiago. There has also been a general call-up for all Army Reservists. The same day over 3 million leaflets were distributed calling for support for the General Strike.

The curfew is still in force and troops and armoured vehicles are everywhere, with road-blocks at all main intersections. Habeus Corpus has been suspended and there have been hundreds arrested and placed under interrogation.

On the guerrilla front, bombings - mostly claimed by the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (Marxist) - continue; six bombs exloded on the Monday before the planned two-day strike.

Latest news is that another five bombs have gone off, one damaging a telehone exchange. Support for the strike has been muted due to the fear of armed action by the Army.

SOUTH AFRICA

Things must be critical when the bosses' federations, the Federated Chambers of Industries and the Chambers of Commerce, come out publicly in condemnation of the arrest of trade union leaders. Of course their real concern is that the arrest will only polarise the situation further and provoke rather than prevent - the intention of the arrests in the first place - a second general strike by Black workers throughout many parts of the country.

Meanwhile Botha did the usual law and order statement: anything the riot police did is justified so long as the legitimacy of the state is upheld, etc, etc. What leader of any parliamentary democracy could disagree with him? After all in statist terms all state terror can be supported if the threat to power is sufficient enough. South Africa, like Chile, Poland, etc presents a picture of what any state would resort to - and what any liberal democracy by implication absolves - if the resistance is that intense.

But as with any industrial state - state capitalist or otherwise - the business interests step in to calm things down if they think the government forces are overeacting and creating the conditions for a popular revolution. Hence the support for the Black trade unionists from the bosses unions.

Latest news is that the General Strike has been disowned by all the major Black trade unions and political groups - they felt that the rioting was getting out of their control.

MINERS

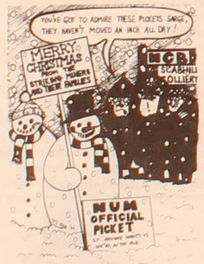
A curfew has been imposed on miners children in the Lothian pit village of Loanhead. Police have invented a 'law' disallowing the children - so far, predictably, they have only cautioned those whose fathers are miners - to be outside on the streets after 8pm.

(SOURCE: Counter Information)

At Elsecar, near Barnsley, pickets set up barricades, oil was spread across the main road to cause scab traffic to skid, a tipper was set alight and a railway crossing was immobilised. Fences were also torn down and the main gate to the entrance to the NCB workshops was fastened together with wire. Mass police reinforcements were fought off with stones. Meanwhile at nearby Hatfield Colliery another road block was erected. Similar actions took place at Gawber, near Barnsley, Treeton, near Rotherham, and Kiveton Park.

(SOURCE: Rising Free)

In South Wales a taxi-driver taking a scab miner to work was killed when a concrete post was hurled at the car from an overhead bridge. The scab was unhurt. The NUM has disassociated itself from such actions. The Government/NCB - who are morally to blame for creating the climate of repression that led to the man's death - has backed away from doing the same. The two men currently charged with murder may end up with life. The scab, however, who incited the taxi-driver to strikebreak in the first place, will no doubt also abdicate all responsibility for his actions. The two jailed miners will need all the support they can get, especially if the NUM officially disowns them.



In South Wales burning barricades were erected outside Marine Colliery, near Abertillery; oil was also poured on to the road and police fought off. A taxi-cab, taking two scabs into Cwm Colliery (Pontypridd), was attacked and smashed up. Many bus workers have refused to transport scabs and in one case - where a coach driver bussing pickets was told by police that he'd be arrested if the coach continued with its journey - all the drivers in one area came out on strike in sympathy.

CAN Womens Relief Group wrote to Brett Yarn Merchants 32-34 Clyde St off Park Rd Bingley W. Yorks Tel (0274)565-959 asking for reject balls of wool to make children toys. They received a reply from the Manager James C. Brett who said: "We are unable to support 'self-inflicted hardship' IF however you decide to collect for the children of miners returning to work we will reconsider." The CAN group are asking for protest letters to be sent to the Manager of Brett Yarn.

The reason Arthur Scargill got hit over the head at Orgreave was that all the PCs were trying to get his baseball cap as a trophy. There was a "bounty" of £100 for anyone who got it.

At Shirebrook, a police rest room was visited by a journalist who found the cops watching porn movies. Complaining to an Inspector they were told to not bother them with such 'trivial complaints'

More charming stories appear in a 'Letter from a picket line policeman' in the latest Leveller 'Monochrome' Supplement, December, 10p from better bookshops and street-sellers or from: *52 Acre Lane SW2 Tel: (01) 274 2288 LONDON*

Besides boredom and aggro from strikers, scabs returning to work have found their wages "downgraded". An electrician who had to sweep floors was paid for cleaner rates: a big drop in pay, and no bonus. One scab got £19 for a week after allowances had been taken off. They have now rejoined the strike!

The NCB 'economics' of using a cheap taxi instead of a re-inforced van is no different from the cost-cutting which leads to industrial accidents and deaths, in the pits. The two strikers arrested for allegedly murdering the taxi driver did not attempt to run and hide and did not intend to kill the taxi-driver, as with many of the alleged assaults they are spur of the moment acts not pre-planned (alibis etc) "terrorist" style actions as the bourgeois press portray. The taxi driver's wife said he kept the job secret from her as she would have disuaded him from doing such a 'job'.

4 members of the Yorkshire Working Miners Committee have resigned because "although moderates we found the Secretary too right wing".

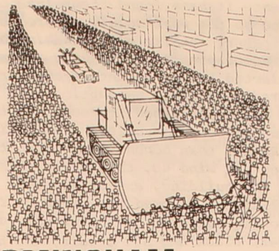
Besides raising funds & morale, distributing food parcels the support groups in many areas have organised to fight any attempted evictions and electricity cut-offs with Alarm-lists and 'alerts'.

Michael Eaton, the North Yorks. NCB Director had his Great North Road, Darrington, near Pontefract home looted while he was holding private talks with West Yorks Police Committee members. £10,000 in jewellery and property went.

Bentley NUM annually holds a memorial srvice for locals killed in the Bentley Explosion and Paddy Train mining disaters In the past NCB pit and area management sent representatives and/or wreaths, this year: none. More than 150 people attended the memorial at Arksey cemetary including representatives from many unions. What post-humous awards will the 'working-miners' get from their bosses should there be accidents?

Armthorpe Miners Wives Action Group have been helping out the Holmes family of Goldthorpe whose two teenage sons died in a coal-digging tragedy on Sunday Nov 18th Food has been donated by many Armthorpe shops and street collections generous.

Meanwhile 23 men and women have been arrested for digging out 'waste coal' compressed into the non-NCB ground by lorries in a former stock yard behind a car park near Rossington pit. The NCB have been turning away 'special cases' entitled to coal. In one case a family with a bronchitic 8 y.o. were refused fuel. Coal 'picking' - an obvious symptom of hardship - has returned on a scale not seen since the general strike and mass unemployment of the 1930s.



BIRMINGHAM STOP THE CITY

Reclaim The City Birmingham has changed its name because of police pressure, comprises Animal Rights-Anarchists who share thoughts and go to demos etc together. No more STC's for Birmingham but maybe some actions on something for xmas. Also a festival, a place where people can sleeep, eat, meet people, exchange thoughts and to watch a couple of bands...publicity being organised:
D,B Central Lib, Box 4, c/o Peace Centre, Moor St, Queensway Birmingham, West Midlands

Last October STC actions went off with a lot of harassment. Someone giving out leaflets about the action weeks before was soon arrested for refusing to let cops look at the leaflet. There were plans to hold a gig at a squat but due to bad weather and the roof not being fixed in time it was flooded we tried various other places. We knew warnings had been sent to all banks, shops etc warning them to beware after London STC.

The night before a very heavy cop presence - people getting searched, 3-4 cops on every other corner, with vans in back streets. People were met who needed a place to stay and they were put up in a squat.

Despite the cops many banks were superglued & doors stuck by other means, also spray-painted and some had paint spilled over their entrances.

9 people from London were arrested for 'conspiracy to criminal damage' and 'criminal damage' which they did not do! They were followed and surrounded by cop vans. Held until Friday, some until Sunday and then bailed to stay in London the Court appearance will be on Dec 6th.

A letter was received from Cathedral which said we couldn't use their land as a meeting place because it isn't a public right of way and that anyone found there would be arrested. Surprising? Not really, office workers, businessmen use the grounds to sit around in, eat lunch etc. It has 200 benches and 5 paths cross it!

We decided to meet at Chamberlain Square on the way noticed many banks had excessive numbers of security guards, shops had their windows greased to prevent paint getting on. A few people marched into Barclays to leaflet but got escorted out quickly.

Leafletting was done on many matters. Several supermarkets had meat thrown about people filled trolleys and either dumped them or took them to the cash register & refused to pay, saying no South African goods! Stickers stuck all over town, in shops such as H.M.V.

By one all reformed and went down to Central TV to protest about media, one person got inside and painted @ on a window. We moved on just outside the City centre to *Five Ways* and ran through the shopping centre knocking things down and smashing them.

5-9 arrested for 'Breach of the Peace' held for around 4 hours. We regrouped and some moved off home, others leafletted, 2 or 3 attacked Sex Shop: throwing books and objects around. 3 people were arrested one from Walsall, 2 Coventry but they did not do it! Many bombscares, many worked. Lots of small actions too.

STUDENTS STOP CITY

A student protest, culminating on the South Bank, ended up in a near riot when 1000's poured over Westminster Bridge in an attempt to 'lobby' Parliament. Next day the papers described the scene outside the House of Commons as a 'siege'.

According to one report nearly 30,000 students from all over the country took part in the demonstration. The organisers - and the police - expected only 3,000 - and the heavy turn-out threatened the usually efficient security arrangements.

Police panicked as many demonstrators began to head for Parliament. At one point three bridges - Westminster, Waterloo and Lambeth were blocked by the students and traffic trying to enter or leave the City of Westminster was impeded. In the end police blockaded the approach roads to Parliament and Mounted Police were brought in, with a contingent of riot cops on standby.

Stones and empty beer cans were thrown at the police. MP's inside the House of Commons raged about being 'trapped'. Within a matter of minutes, several District Support Units and hundreds of special reserves were brought in to the area in case the students could not be contained.

There were many arrests - around 200 - but few were charged. Instead the arrests took the form of temporary detention as a means of defusing the situation.

The protest was over proposed cuts in student grants, affecting particularly the daughters and sons of mainly middle class parents who will lose the grant and who will be expected to contribute to tuition fees. Many students fear that their parents will refuse to pay out. Support for the parents has naturally come from many back-bench Tory MP's, who fear the cut may lose the Party votes. Ironically, Labour are opposed to the measures and are thus taking a stance that one would expect the Conservatives to take if they were in Opposition, namely to go against the subsidising of grants for working class students by the parents of those students who are clearly better off!

To be cynical, is the sudden student militancy a sign that students are once more becoming 'politicised' or is it more of a right-wing backlash, as with the French student riots in '82?

INFILTRATION?

Ten years ago the Ulster Freedom Fighters - a pseudo organisation set up by the SAS to instigate and provoke sectarian killings in order to create the right 'mopping up' conditions for the British Army - claimed the deaths of many an innocent life and were responsible for many more. Today the UFF are reportedly back in force out to provoke more sectarian violence so as to take the heat off the British presence in advance, perhaps, of an intensification of yet another dirty tricks campaign.

Two weeks back the UFF claimed responsibility for the murder of Patrick Brady, allegedly an Intelligence Officer for the IRA. Brady was a member of Sinn Fein but his family deny he had any paramilitary connections. The UFF are also believed to be responsible for the murder of a Catholic taxidriver - who had no known political involvements - in the same area.

It became common knowledge that the UFF had SAS agents working within it and was itself set up with SAS assistance. In the early '70's a UVF campaign presaged the invasion of British troops into the North - ostensibly to 'protect' the Catholics against Protestant violence. A few years later and the UFF were in force. What many forgot is that the UFF were also used against Protestant paramilitaries (although by no means to the same degree) partly by intelligence gathering and partly by selective assassinations of those loyalists who wanted to go it alone (eg, Tommy Herron, head of the Ulster Citizens Army).

Are the same destabilisation tactics about to be employed once again? An increase in sectarian violence only benefits the British state, that can use such an escalation to its advantage.



FLASHPOINT : Police take away students after clashes on Westminster Bridge

ISLAMIC LIBERATION?

The Palestine National Council, holding a meeting in November in Amman, Jordan, were guests of King Hussein, who expressed his solidarity with the PLO - evidently forgetting the number of times he has accepted Israeli support in bolstering up his kingdom, allowing him to escape the consequences of revolt, or Israeli intelligence aid against the Arab opposition to Hashemite rule, or his own rule in crushing the Palestinians in 'Black September'.

Arafat is now backed by the Syrians - and has left his so-called Left Wing allies in the lurch. Described in the press as 'Communist, Leftist and Moslem militants', the anti-Arafat wing of the PLO - in reality plain Arab nationalists and his old supporters - rot in Syrian jails, having carried the brunt of the anti-Israeli military activity and being no longer needed by the Syrian military.

A large part of the dissension in the PLO ranks is caused by its persistent infiltration by the Shin Beit - Israeli's 'CIA' - with its agents posing as Marxist-Leninist groups to infiltrate Arab nationalism. While the Arabs can be forced to fight each other - as with the 'Trotskyist vanguard' persuading the PLO to turn and fight Jordan when it was hopelessly outclassed - the Israelis must conquer. The leftist rhetoric connot disguise this.

Meanwhile the religious bigots posing as nationalists in Iran force their people into a continuing long drawn out fruitless war with Iraq, without purpose or sense, repeating Islamic prayers over the victims and dealing behind closed doors with one Great Power or the other (including Israel when it suits them), while other Arab fighters languish in Israel's jails wondering why the great liberation movement doesn't come to their aid, Islamic or 'Marxists'.

Murrays

There are informal meetings going on between Padraig Terry B.A. (Murray's solicitor) and interested individuals on ideas and strategy on an ongoing basis. He also wants to get a broad spectrum of opinion, including legal. This means the theological aspect from Maynooth* and other mainline churches. In this way the judiciary will have to be careful in their ultimate verdict. One obstacle mounted is that a so-called liberal Doctor who was asked for a gynacological report and examination of Noel and Marie got cold feet...This report will be needed so as to close any technical excuses from the Judge.

The old solicitors are looking for £5,500 before they would hand over the files of the five years previous work they were supposed to have done. The Barristers on that one were MacBride and MacEntee and ethics don't allow for a new solicitor to take over the case until bills are paid up, to make matters worse MacEntee is now the President of the Incorporated Law Society.

This obstacle can be overcome because the former solicitors had not done much research and friends are now in a position to start from scratch. MacBride is still interested in the case, he was flabbergasted that the old solicitors could ask for £5,500 and has agreed that any expenses he will incur can wait until the case concludes because one way or another the Court should award costs. On this basis MacEntee might also re-enter. MacBride is away on International business for two months so a postponement will give some breathing space, time to get extra funds etc.

With luck the State might just get pissed off with the lot and let them out on some other excuse.

Maynooth - one of the oldest respectable catholic college near Dublin.

Liverpool Benefit

DON'T FORGET! On Wednesday 19th December at The Irish Centre, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool (near Lime St Railway Station & National Bus Station) at 6.30pm there will be a benefit for the Murrays. 6 groups, Late Bar, £1.50! Organised by Liverpool Black & Red and Liverpool Anarchist Black Cross.

Anyone who can't make it to the Liverpool Benefit is of course welcome to send their donation to us here in London c/o BM address.

Black Cross Prisoners List

At the Black Cross meeting held recently several groups around the country offered to become regional Black Cross groups anyone who did not attend the meeting and would like to become involved in Black Cross work please contact us and we will put you in contact with local groups. In the next issue we will publish an updated list of prisoners around the world and their addresses. If you cannot wait write and we will send you the list, if you enclose a Stamped self-Addressed Envelope.

Prison Pickets

On Saturday 15th December there will be pickets of prisons protesting at their overcrowded, brutal, regimes and their function to break working class resistance (miners on strike, black youth, anti-militarists etc.) and to put across the anarchist alternative of a free society. The jails are the real crime!

9.15 - 11.15 am & 1.00 - 3.15pm outside BRIXTON prison, Jebb Avenue SW2

9.45 - 11.15 am outside HOLLOWAY prison Parkhurst Road, N7

9.15-10.45am & 1.30 - 2.45pm PENTONVILLE prison, Caledonian Road, N7.

1.30-3.30 outside WORMWOOD SCRUBS prison, Du Cane Rd W12.

LETTER

Dear Friends,

It is a pity that a paper like *Black Flag* which is usually 'down to earth' and full of good info, especially during the miners strike, is still stuck in an old anarchist 'tradition' of slagging each other off.

For example the article attacking *Freedom* newspaper in the last issue of B.F. seems to me to have no place in an agitational paper (i.e. not just written for politicos).

Even if *Freedom* are a bunch of 'middle-class, pacifist wallies', so what? There are much greater threats to our livelyhood and the anarchist movement than *Freedom* newspaper. So let's concentrate our fight against them, and not each other.

Obviously there will always be disagreements in the Anarchist movement which need to be discussed publically, such as Ireland. But then, I think, the *issues* should be discussed, not what members of another groups specific ideology is.

In solidarity,
Robert Davis

Would it were so simple. Since the event of the new music scene anyone with a rich dad can bring out a paper with no movement behind it; a duplicated sheet can can done by anyone. This does not make them part of the anarchist movement, or of any movement we belong to.

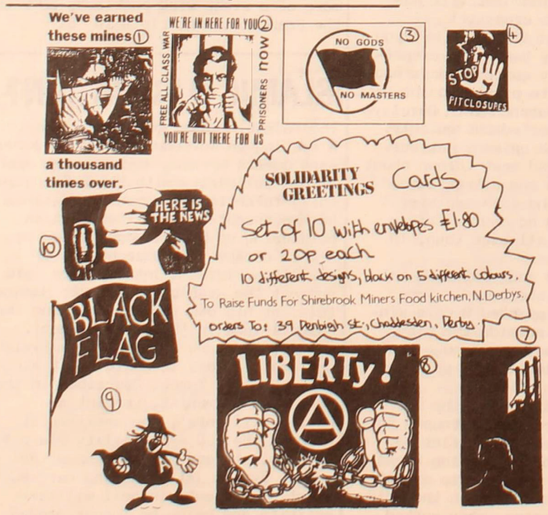
For example, two formerly totally unknown well-heeled London kids suddenly brought out a one-off mag Logo, *solely to slag off the anarchists, and expected us to distribute it! When we wouldn't we were denounced as 'censors', and a group in Sheffield, no part of our movement rush to their defence and incidentally denounce our active comrades as police agents. What have these horseflies got to do with us?*

The situation regarding Freedom *is that (whatever lies you may now read) some of us did a lot more to found the weekly, since falling to fortnightly and now a monthly,* Freedom *than any of its self-styled 'Old Guard': we left it because of a proposed collection for an injured policeman who was knocked off his horse; after years of their bringing in so many of what our reader calls the 'pacifist wallies'. These have now either died, or walked out, and the 'Old Guard' never having cared to do any of the work themselves, let alone finance it have found themselves obliged to do the work solely of producing the paper, nothing else: and in the invidious position of having recently collected bumper amounts from American comrades on their assumption this was the old established* Freedom, *and then being obliged to suspend publication.*

Rather than honourably return the money and wind up, they have, retaining the building, assets and book publishing, allowed the paper to fall into the hands of one previously unknown, Stuart Black aka Stu Stuart, who has transformed it (see November issue of Freedom*) into 90 per cent personal abuse of anarchists and 10 per cent other content only to have an alibi that the paper still exists. Surely in addition to our variously producing a fortnightly, a quarterly, participating in strikes, demonstrations, union activity, meetings up and down the country, organising prisoners aid (and being asked for help sometimes by the very gadflies who spend the rest of the time slagging us off, when they're not in trouble), international solidarity, feminist activity, squatting, DAM organisation, and reckon to pay for our unpaid activity without relying on grants or established hand-outs, we could be excused for occasionally getting the fly-whisk (unless provoked to anything stronger!).*

What is the alternative? To allow repeated lies to pass into acceptance by default? Even our reader, expressing solidarity, falls into the trap of believing that there is an 'anarchist tradition of wrangling', which outsiders want to establish; while others may accept that it is among our active comrades thatpeople 'live in the past' rather than in the ossified Press 'Old Guard', as did the punk group producing the record 'Hello Albert' and later saying 'Sorry, we mixed you up with Philip Samsom!!! This is then repeated by Logo.

We don't think it harms the public learning about anarchism to distinguish between the real anarchists, and a few, unrepresentative of anything, who occasionally daub the odd 'A' or even bring out a paper slagging of the anarchos pretending they're the extremist internal opposition!



FEEDBACK

Land Lanes 1

A youth charged with 'incitement to cause a breach of the Peace' (see BF 121) has had his case set to be heard in Court on 7th December and those in Leeds are asked to attend those outside donate to 'Direct Action' *c/o Leeds Lands Lane Defence Fund, Box DAM, 59 Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 3AW.* The youth was street-selling papers.

LETTER FROM USA

Dear Black Flag,

Thanks for sending the **Black Flag Quarterly** – am still reading it. Learned about anarchist movements in Korea and Sweden. Seems the American Anarchists lack the depth and breadth of passion that marks the Euro movements. About J. Most, many feminists over here are fond of telling how Emma Goldman once publicly horse-whipped poor Johann for crimes of alleged sexism. Be interesting to note what you all have to say about that?

P.R.

REPLY: Trouble is when people make other humans gods, they assume the role of high priests explaining what the god did or said, which is always reflecting their own particular interests. After Alexander Berkman attempted to shoot Frick, Most publicly questioned the value of the act, and suggested that the perpetrator might even be hired by Frick to get sympathy for himself after having incurred odium for shooting down strikers and their families. Emma – then young and in love with Berkman – horsewhipped Most but it was hardly an "anti-sexist act". Years later Berkman adopted a similar, though less hypocritical, attitude to Czolgosz (who shot dead President McKinley): and years after that, Emma herself took a similar view in relation to individual acts!

Change of Address

Iranian libertarian journal in Farsi/persian has changed address to *ENSANE AZAD c/o Postfach 11 04 15. 4300 Essen 4300 Essen 11 W.-Germany.* We exchange *Black Flag* with them and they want to contact other anarchists.

Renegade

Renegade No.1. Nov/84. A3 single sheet. Features, Bricks & Pieces; Ethiopia, the Miners 'hit squads' & more. Available: *Box Renegade, c/o Lark Lane Books, 82 Lark Lane LIVERPOOL 17. England.*

Change Of Hours

Islington Housing Action Group have asked us to point out that their hours are now 2-4pm Sundays at Molly's cafe, 283 Upper St. Islington, N1.

Macclesfield Squatters Group

Is based at an old school and has plenty of space for meetings, gigs, etc. They need to raise funds for repairs, tools, books and a generator and ask any @ band who can help to write or come around to: *Macc Squatters Aid, St Peters School, Windmill St., Macclesfield CHESHIRE.*

Counter-information

Is a free news-sheet which aims to provide information about the miners strike & related struggles which is censored by the mass media, and to suggest ways for the class struggle to go forward. It's meant for mass distribution, especially mining communities, perhaps along with your own more general leaflet on the strike. And/or you can use the info. in your own publications. Produced by @s & revolutionists in Clydeside & Edinburgh. The 4th issue is now being prepared, information and orders for copies to: *Counter-Information, Box 81, c/o 1st May 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh.*

E London DAM Meeting

Will hold their next meeting on Wednesday December 12th 1984, at 84b Whitechapel High St. London E1 (begins 7pm).

Taking Candy From Babies

Customs officers and police have stopped a mini-van from Belgian supporters who were on their way to deliver sweets and toys to the children of striking miners at Amerford pit in Wales

Extradition Threat

As we go to press news has come in of protests planned for December 6/7th at the French Government's plan to extradite two Italian libertarian communist militants, exiled in France and wanted by the Italian State. France traditionally grants asylum to political fugitives. Enrico Fedele and Giovanni Di Guiseppe must not be jailed or allowed to be extradited. Protests to your nearest French Government Office or French business. More information from: *Enrico Fedele Support Committee, 17, rue des Vignoles, 75020 Paris*

SOURCE: Ekomedi@

Workers Solidarity

Workers Solidarity is the paper of the Workers Solidarity Movement. Issue No. 1 is out for November 1984 and is 20p. It has an 8 page offset printed format. Articles include: Planning for Progress; Planning for Poverty; Our History; Anarchism: Socialism & Freedom; Dunne strikers and Victory to the Miners. The W.S.M. has been gaining affiliates North & South and has been involved in picketing Russian Embassy over coal imports. They run an Anarchist Book Service too and have put out a new pamphlet *Anarchy for Ireland* which we will review shortly. Contact: *W.S.M. P.O. Box 1528, Dublin 8. Ireland.*

Anarchist Meeting

Dec 7: WOMEN AGAINST THE STATE - Anarcha-Feminism at 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, Brixton SE24 at 7pm. Meal 6pm.

Dec 21: THE REDUNDANCY OF XMAS. Speaker from Anti-Theists. Satirical songs set to Xmas tunes at Molly's Cafe, 287 Upper Street, Islington at 7pm. Meal 6pm.



Class War Prisoner

Davy Hamilton, a prominent member of the Dalkeith Strike Committee is at present being held under the 110 day rule on a charge of 'serious assault'.

It is widely felt that Davy is a political prisoner, and that had he not been a member of the local strike committee, he would have been released on bail. As it is he is on a 110 day remand on the charge of seriously assaulting a scab. No witnesses were present at the time of the alleged assault. His next hearing will be December 19th and any readers in the area should get in touch with the Strike Committee, letters of sympathy and solidarity should be sent to: *Dalkeith Strike Committee, Miners Social Club, Woodburn Road, Dalkeith, Midlothian.* As we do not have his Saughton Prison number letters to the above address are most likely to reach him through his friends.

Dad the kettle's boiling
Hey Dad what's the time?
Dad where is our mother?
She's on the picket line
Dad we want our dinner
Dad we're nearly pined
Dad where is our mother?
She's on the picket line
Oh Dad when this is over
And we're feeling fine
We'll always remember
That bloody picket line
Dad when we are grown up
And we're down the mine
If the Union needs us
We'll be on the picket line
Then we'll teach our children
About the picket line
And hope the history lesson
Will go on for all time.

A song from Barnsley Women Against Pit Closures who have just published a well-produced book of writing on the miners' strike. Anecdotes, anger, songs and solidarity, plus photos and excerpts from supporters' letters. Available from BWAPC, c/o Women's Co-ordinating Centre, St James' House, Vicar Lane, Sheffield, for a *minimum* of £2 inc p&p.

Power Stations

West Twin coal-fired power station has been closed since late March, making the North of Ireland the only region to have kept a power station shut throughout the entire dispute.

Belfast coal dock workers have only allowed coal for domestic & emergency services through and lost wages and in some cases been laid off. At Warrenpoint no coal is moving.

Dwindling stockpiles and low imports mean no industrial use coal which in turn means the RUC or Army being used?

At Larne though coal is still moving and pickets are taking place to try to get through to those moving it.

